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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

# INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Huta Pokoj Steel Mill in Nowy Bytom (Equipment/Departments  
Production/Use of Soviet Iron Ores) Nowy Bytom Vocational  
School for Steel Mill Specialists/Steel Industry Propa-  
ganda among Youth/Compulsory Labor Camps and Military  
Labor Units/New Administrative  
Organization of Nowy Bytom Area

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THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE

1. "The following information dates through the beginning of September 1953:
2. "The huge Huta Pokoj steel mill in Nowy Bytom was in existence before World War II and was not damaged during the war. After the war, a part of the steel plant (consisting primarily of the mechanical department) was dismantled and transferred to the nearby Labedy steel mill as replacement equipment. The Labedy steel mill had been nearly completely dismantled by the Soviets. (Approximately 500 ultra-modern engine tools were taken at that time from Labedy to the USSR.)
3. "Since that post-war period, the Huta Pokoj plant has been practically restored to its former condition and standards, and some new investments have been made in it. By the end of 1952, new rumours were spreading that in the future no more investments would be made as the complete dismantling of the entire plant was envisioned within the next year or so. It was further rumoured that rich deposits of high-quality coal had been discovered in the soil and ground under the plant and that the presence of the plant on this ground would make the exploitation of these rich resources impossible. It was said that in connection with this project discussions were under way for the enlargement of the Pokoje or Wanda-Lech /Wanda-Lech not in NIS Gazeteer for Poland/ coal mines. It was even said that possibly a complete new coal mine set-up might be constructed. I am not at all certain whether or not all these rumours are true. At present /September 1953/, the production at Huta Pokoj is in full swing.
4. "Huta Pokoj consists of the steel mill itself, a huge rolling plant, and a not too extensive mechanical department. The equipment and departments are as follow:
  - a. Four huge furnaces, all of them in operation. [See Nos. 1 and 1a on the map of the Huta Pokoj steel mill and the surrounding section of Nowy Bytom available at the CIA Map Library.]

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- b. Eight Martin-type ovens [Siemens-Martin Process?]. These ovens are of a smaller type and have a limited capacity. A ninth oven (of the rotating type) with a much higher capacity is at present [September 1953] under construction. [See No. 2 on the map.]
- c. The rolling plant is subdivided into the following departments:
- (1) department for the rolling of thick steel plates [see No. 3 on map];
  - (2) department for [the processing of] thinner types of rolled plates [see No. 4 on map];
  - (3) department for rolling special kinds of steel plates covered with a zinc-layer [see No. 5 on map]. This section has been given the slang name of the 'Sedzimir' rolling section.
- A smithery has been attached to the rolling department. This smithery has a steam-pressure sledge of the old pre-World War II type. [See No. 6 on the map.]
- d. As most of the production at Huta Pokoj is concerned primarily with steel and rolling works, in relation to the rest of the plant the mechanical department is not very large. Aside from the manufacture of axle-and-wheels as semi-finished products, the mechanical department takes orders from other plants for various types of metallurgical parts for machinery. [See No. 7 on the map.]
- e. The department for steel constructions is operated on a much larger scale. In this department parts for steel bridges and steel constructions for cranes are manufactured. The parts for the large Poniatowski Bridge in Warsaw were supplied by Huta Pokoj a few years ago. [See No. 8 on the map.]
- f. One post-World War II investment was the special equipment consisting of steel moulds and casts for casting steel bars which was added to the steel production department. This equipment was installed in the vicinity of the furnaces [No. 11 on the map]. This special equipment was required because Huta Pokoj is producing more steel than is needed for just its own further processing. Steel in bars is one of the forms of steel with which Huta Pokoj is supplying the Labedy steel mill (which steel mill is producing tanks and armored vehicles [redacted]).
- g. Huta Pokoj has its own equipment [No. 9 on the map] for producing coke from coal. The output of coke is sufficient only for the internal needs of the enterprise. The coking is connected with a special section for gas-clearing [sic], [No. 9a on the map].
- h. Further auxiliary installations are:
- (1) oxygen compression section [No. 10 on the map];
  - (2) electrical workshops [No. 16];
  - (3) repair and maintenance workshop for the transportation installations of the plant [Nos. 12 and 12a];
  - (4) carpentry [Installation];
  - (5) numerous smaller-sized mechanical workshops which deal with all kinds of repairs and maintenance for the enterprise.
- i. According to rumours, the plant laboratories [No. 14 on the map] are doing research work on the manufacture of tank plates to be produced by Huta Pokoj in the future. However, to go into such a line of production would require special new investments in the steel mill, as at present [September 1953] there are no electric ovens in the plant.
- j. I am not in a position to define accurately in which rolling department rails are produced, but I know definitely that this is quite an important aspect of production within Huta Pokoj. I further learned that nearly all rails were manufactured as a result of Soviet orders.

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5. "The production of the steel plant is now based mainly on iron ores coming from the USSR. It can well be said that not more than 20% of all ores used by Huta Pokoj come from Sweden. The use in production of such a large amount of Soviet iron ore (ore coming from Krivoi Rog) necessitated establishing some extra auxiliary processes. The Huta Pokoj furnaces are made to accommodate Swedish or other Western-type iron ores, which are supplied in the shape of smaller stones, and the Soviet iron ores come in powder form. In order to avoid having to remodel the furnaces, it is necessary to put the Soviet ores through additional agglomeration phases. After World War II, pre-war sections of the plant were enlarged and rebuilt for this purpose. These installations are located on another lot belonging to the factory where up to the present time stocks of iron ore have been stored. After going through the agglomeration process [No. 15 on the map], the [Soviet] iron ore is transported into the factory by way of a special railway viaduct.

#### Nowy Bytom Vocational School

6. "Specialists for Huta Pokoj and other surrounding steel plants are now given their professional training in a vocational school in Nowy Bytom on Karola Swierczewskiego Street (formerly Szkolna Street). This school is called 'Technikum Hutnicze' [No. 17 on the map]. The school is divided into two departments. In the first department, there is a two-year course for the training of skilled workers, and in the second department, there is a four-year course for the training of mechanical foremen. In both departments, instruction is given in various subjects; for example, subjects for locksmiths, grinders, furnace operators and even laborers [laborers? laboratory technicians?] who are specially trained for steel mills.
7. "Aside from learning all technical subjects, the pupils are obliged to take courses in general education.
8. "The majority of the pupils live in the school internate [dormitory?]. In 1953, over 500 pupils were enrolled.
9. "This type of professional school is very popular among young people, as a graduation certificate from such a school guarantees them better prospects for higher wages. There is still a particular demand for steel mill specialists.
10. "There is much propaganda to urge young people to join the steel mill trade. In line with this propaganda, pupils are offered the possibility of employment in plants presently in existence, with an outlook of being later transferred to the giant Nowa Huta enterprise which is now under construction. The propaganda line enumerates all the privileges awaiting young specialists at Nowa Huta: high wages, modern living accommodations, special facilities for small children, etc. It is stressed that Nowa Huta will be under a 'young management' and that young specialists will be able to apply their self-developed modern methods without being hampered by traditionalists. Such propaganda has been very successful and has resulted in waves of enrollments at the special vocational steel mill school in Nowy Bytom.

#### Compulsory Labor Camps and Military Labor Units in the Nowy Bytom Area

11. "In the Nowy Bytom area, there are quite a number of compulsory labor camps. Several military labor units are also stationed within the area.
12. "Following is a list of compulsory labor camps centers:
- a. Nowy Bytom: inmates working in the Pokoj coal mine.
  - b. Ruda: inmates working in the cokery and also on the enlargement of some industrial installations in this place.
  - c. Chebzie: inmates working in the coal mine of this place.
13. "Military labor units are attached to:
- (1) the Polska coal mine in Swietochlowice
  - (2) the Wanda-Jech coal mine
  - (3) the Julian coal mine in Bytom. This coal mine has been out of operation for a long time and is now going to be re-established. Exploitation will be resumed in 1954.

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New Administrative Organization of Nowy Bytom Area

14. "Since the consolidation of various communities in the beginning of 1953, Nowy Bytom is now comprised of the following previously independent localities:

Chebzie  
Czarny Las

Bielszowice  
Wirek

Bykowina  
Kłodnica  
Kochłowice  
Malemba.

15. "Along with this administrative unification, Nowy Bytom was made the seat of the UB office now located in the new building on Karola Miarki Street, in the vicinity of the Patria picture-house."

Available at the CIA Map Library is a map of the Huta Pokoj steel mill and the section of Nowy Bytom in which it is located. This map is drawn to a scale of approximately 1:3000. To borrow map - call code 143, ext.2596. Map call number - 85465-R.

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